1.

"The National Interest Requires"

17

Continued suppression of evidence in the name of its revelation is the official action by which the United States Government commemorated the third anniversary of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

In an unprecedented action not understood by the press, then - Acting Attorney General Ramsey Clark on November 1 aimed a one-two punch that denied important evidence while loudly proclaiming the government was "preserving" what he called "the entire body of evidence considered by the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy".

"I have determined that the national interest requires" this action, Clark said.

In truth, it is obvious to one intimately familiar with the government's conduct and method in its investigation of this "crime of the century" and its official Report, that this action was motivated by growing disenchantment with that Report, persistent and nagging doubts about the integrity of the inquiry and a desire to put the best possible makeup on its reddening face.

My own personal investigation, more than ~~four~~ three years of the most intensive research into both the assassination and its investigation, is embodied in the first book on the subject, WHITEWASH: THE REPORT ON THE WARREN REPORT, which comes entirely from the Commission's published material, and three that followed, the only books to come entirely or largely from its once-secret files - WHITEWASH II: THE FBI-SECRET SERVICE COVERUP, PHOTOGRAPHIC WHITEWASH: SUPPRESSED KENNEDY ASSASSINATION PICTURES, and OSWALD IN NEW ORLEANS: CASE FOR CONSPIRACY. My investigations into <u>who</u> did the whitewashing convinces me that, while pretending

to preserve evidence of the assassination and make it available, the government, in fact, intends exactly the opposite, the perpetuation of its suppressions.

For this it used a temporary, limited-purpose law that expired the very next day.

Regardless of intent, the effect was to bury deeper in secret government caches fundamental evidence that cannot reasonably be denied researchers. Especially important here is the spectrographic analysis of the bullet said to have figured in the crimes and the miscellaneous fragments of bullets found in the bodies of the President and Texas Governor John B. Connally and in the vehicle in which they were riding. This essential FBI analysis has never seen the light of day. It was not seen by the Commission, which went to abnormal lengths to avoid it. J. Edgar Hoover now personally sits on it.

Winding up its second punch while the first was emblazoned on the front pages, the government announced the return of the autopsy photographs and X-rays by the Kennedy family, whose possession of them had been widely and accurately rumored. This dramatic release was carefully timed to magnify the impact of the first announcement, which it immediately overshadowed. Thus diverted, no major publication, if, indeed, any at all, has analyzed the content and meaning of the government's so-called "preserving" of "the entire body of evidence". Its announcement was automatically accredited in the excitement over the pictures and X-rays, interest in which had been swelling for weeks. Their return, presented as an act of Kennedy-family generosity, involved that name in seeming endorsement of these actions and the official inquiry and its Report.

In the drama of the Kennedy picture and X-ray return, the mish-

mash of junk, trash and trivia - what the Acting Attorney General was really talking about - got lost in the 525 column inches of small type in the "Federal Register" in which such announcements are published. I here print it on pp.000-00.

Meanwhile, by returning the government property, the Kennedy family escaped the pressure on it to make this evidence available. The terms under which the pictures and X-rays were restored to the government can effectively suppress them for more than the lifetime of now-living adults. For the first five years access is restricted to those who failed to use them when it was incumbent upon them to do so, government investigators. Thereafter, only pathologists who are specially approved by the family's surrogate may see them. Before then, any question of error will be entirely academic. Certainly competent pathologists will never take the great time required to master the enormous mass of the evidence collected, published in twenty-six large volumes and buried in several hundred cubic feet of unpublished documents, and the tremendous amount of avoided evidence. Much of what was gathered is irrelevant. An appreciable quantity is pertinent only were Oswald the solitary assassin, which the government alleged but never proved. Understanding ~~came~~ comes only after close and long study. The medical evidence cannot stand alone, cannot be considered alone, all that pathologists armed only with their science could do. This would be meaningless, a mere device, a trick. (We consider the returning of the pictures and X-rays in the following chapter.)

There remains outside government files and outside the Commission's record an immeasurable burden of the most significant evidence that was known to exist, whose existence is acknowledged in the gathered documentation, and which the government resolutely refused to collect, even for history. PHOTOGRAPHIC WHITEWASH: SUPPRESSED KENNEDY ASSASSINATION

PICTURES reveals and describes thousands of frames of pictures of this description.

It now should come as no surprise that this unwanted and disowned information is all of a character that could and does disprove the government's predetermined conclusions. That book and WHITEWASH establish that the Commission refused to accept in evidence any photographs taken the moment of the assassination that showed the front of the Texas School Book Depository Building and the surrounding grounds. This happened even when witnesses were testifying to and describing literally thousands of such pictures. They and WHITEWASH II describe additional pictures of this content, both professional and amateur. The abundance of these photographs is truly astounding. There are none in evidence, none in the Commission's exhibits - not a single one!

More, when some unavoidably came into the possession of the government, they were returned without copies being preserved in either the evidence or the files. My personal investigation of the archive of the Commission's files in the National Archives and my own personal inquiry of those in charge of it reveals not a single such picture, motion or still!

Yet descriptions abound in the evidence of the contents of these pictures: the front of the building from which the shots, in the official account, all came, and people entering, leaving and standing around it. It is exactly such pictures that are essential in any impartial investigation showing who went into or came out of the building immediately after the shots were fired, who was standing around it, and above all essential to the Commission's case, whether Oswald shows in any of these. The appearance of Oswald in any of these pictures at a time when from the Commission's presumptions he could not have been there quite obviously would destroy its case and beyond resurrection.

A single TV photographer, Tom Alyea of WFAA, took 500 feet of 16mm film inside the building, on the sixth floor, including the alleged sniper's nest, beginning immediately. The FBI allowed most of it to disappear ~~and~~ or be destroyed in normal commercial TV usage without getting any of it, yet its existence was known while it was being shot! During the six months before it was belatedly forced on the FBI, at least 80% of it disappeared and none of the remaining film is in evidence or in the files!

The best that can now be hoped is that duplicates, never as clear, may have been made of some of the film and that they may yet be located. My colleague, Richard Sprague, is engaged in promising investigations in this field, as the appendix indicates.

All of this is set forth in detail in PHOTOGRAPHIC WHITEWASH, completely from the government's own suppressed evidence. It is but a part of that truly shocking account of how the government deliberately whitewashed its investigation of the assassination of the late President.

So transparent are the government's obfuscations to those who study the case that when, without prior notice, I was questioned by Richard Wigg of the London Times about the Attorney General's announcement , my instantaneous reaction, from the few brief words of description in the wire-service dispatch he read me, was that the national heritage would be neither enriched nor ennobled by these additions to the National Archives and that, save for perhaps a very few items (like the rifle), none would have any evidentiary value or add to what was known.

The accuracy of this forecast comes not from occult power or remarkable intelligence. It is, rather, an illustration of how predictable almost anything the government does is to those few of us who have made a serious effort to study the evidence.

Unpleasant as is the realization and unwilling as is the press to face the reality of the unassailable evidence it will not consider, or grossly and persistently misrepresents, the simple truth is that this is a can of nasty wriggling worms, not the touted pot of gold.

Of what does this then-newest of the government's false assurances consist?

There are seven pages, each of three columns of fine print, listing the items specified by the Department of Justice. They are the most amazing collection of official junk and trivia in government history, very few with any evidentiary value. The list is overwhelming proof that the government never at any time sought any assassin other than Oswald and constitutes an additional proof of the charge I first made in WHITEWASH in February 1965, that the government sought only to ~~try and~~ make it seem possible that Oswald, alone, might have been the assassin. There is no "evidence" of any other nature in this official trash-heap.

Among the listings in it are:

Twenty-six different items of empty envelopes alone, probably the most numerous category;

Odds and ends of unused notepaper; unused blanks, for subscribing to Life magazine and post-office address change;

A "no admittance" sign;

An employment service calling card;

Empty boxes;

Hand sketches;

Undestroyed trash, like magazine wrappers;

Miscellaneous employment and household records, as for insurance, utilities, salary, social security, vaccination, and witholding tax statements (those for 1955-6, Nos. 168 and 175, exist in duplicate and in duplicate items);

The birth certificates of both Oswald babies;

Wallets, watches, tie clips (one from the Soviet Union described in elaborate detail while possibly significant items are merely designated "photos" or "negatives") and belt buckles;

New and used Christmas, greeting and post cards;

Playing cards;

The $13.87 on Oswald's person when he was arrested;

Marine Corps memorabilia, including a mess pass;

Library cards;

Marina's embroidery and sewing patterns and instructions, recipes, fashion literature, sewing kit (with religious medal and nail), apparently some toilet items, her TV trading-stamp book, child-care literature, and her cookbook.

There are numerous books and articles swelling the impressively long listing: two paperback Ian Flemings, two volumes of H. G. Wells' "Outline of History", George Orwell's "1984" (the anti-Communist classic and favorite of the anti-Communist Oswald), various dictionaries and education aids, a copy of "The Nation", some of Jean-Paul Sartre's writing, a Sears catalogue, and item after item of political tracts, a number of which are anti-Russian and anti-Communist.

Oswald's own political writings are included, but in a manner that denies this knowledge to those not intimately familiar with the case. Their anti-Russian character is carefully hidden.

Ruth Paine's Minox camera, which has no connection with the assassination, the Oswalds or the investigation, is among the numerous items of her property illegally and knowingly illegally seized (WHITEWASH 80 ff). The cost of suing the government to recoup the value of such property exceeds its value, with the possible exception of the C-2766 Mannlicher-Carcano rifle, whose purchaser, from the public press, paid Marina Oswald

a large sum for it and has gone to court. It is the temporary law Congress passed to block this sale that was invoked, on its last day on the statute books, to effectuate the seizures. Strangely, there was no complaint from those whose political stock-in-trade is the sanctity of private property.

Predictably, the really vital evidence, like the Zapruder film, owned by Life magazine, and other films owned by other wealthy and influential corporations, including the Associated Press and United Press International, were not seized. The government does not want the real evidence of the crime, for that is exculpatory of Oswald and disastrous to its prefabricated case.

A cheap camera Oswald gave his niece in 1958 is listed, but the one with which Marina is said to have taken Oswald's picture posing with his arsenal and left-wing literature appears not to be.

His autopsy pictures (~~see~~ p.___), not federal government property, were taken by the FBI (item D192). Those of the President, federal property, were given away by the government.

Several boxes of 6.5 mm. ammunition that fit the rifle are listed (items C309-10), together with two empty ammunition boxes (D79). The list indicates the empty boxes were Oswald's property, which is not the case. It does not indicate that the live ammunition was bought by the government and includes generally-available ammunition entirely different than the hard-jacketed military type that the government alleges was used that day. It does not say that some was soft-nose ammunition 100% consistent with the traces left by some of the assassination shooting, including the "missed" or "curb" shot (WHITEWASH 27-8, 158-61, 164).

It includes some items as just transferred to the archive when this is false. Months ago I examined some of this evidence in the

archive and certify that it had, by then, been carefully altered to suit the government's preconceptions. This is documented in detail in WHITEWASH II: THE FBI-SECRET SERVICE COVERUP. Among these items are evidence not considered in the Commission's testimony and revealing vital information suppressed from the Report because it is inconsistent with the Report's conclusions. One of these items is false, others misleading and couched in language that can be intended only to deceive.

There are several listings of empty shells, presumably fitting that Italian rifle and gathered from various places and people. There is no listing of the important 6.5 mm shells recovered from the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository Building.

There is no listing of the bullets used in the Tippit killing. There is no listing of the shells recovered at the scene of that crime.

The most vital ballistics evidence is also not listed. This includes the whole bullet on which the entire case hangs, the one from the hospital; the fragments from the Presidential car; and the fragments taken from the bodies of the President and the Governor (see correspondence 21 appendix).

Also not listed is the suppressed spectrographic analysis of this bullet and these fragments, which can destroy the entire government case.

Additionally, there is no listing of the bullets fired in tests. These also destroy the government's contention, although otherwise represented in the Report. Quiet addition of the missing ballistics evidence to the assassination archive makes that available, of course, but this listing by the Attorney General, printed in the Federal Register, will be taken as complete by scholars and others who may assume it to be unavailable because it is not there listed.

The spectrographic analysis was carefully kept out of the evi-

dence and the Report. What few questions were asked about it were directed to the firearms experts, not the spectrographer. The spectrographer was the Commission's last witness. As I expose in WHITEWASH (page 164), he was asked not a single question about this analysis.

The manner in which these items of evidence can disprove the case is obvious to those who know the suppressed and misrepresented facts (see WHITEWASH, "The Number of Shots"). Simply put, it is this:

The Commission says three bullets were fired. Despite its equivocations, its case rests on three bullets, no more and no less. One of these could not be associated with the motorcade and missed it entirely. Another exploded in the President's head and could not have inflicted any other wounds on him or the Governor. The third, the truly magical bullet, with a built-in intelligence and a fineness of control possessed by nothing ever launched at Cape Kennedy, must have inflicted a total of seven non-fatal injuries and must also have remained virtually intact, unmutilated and, the word the government shunned despite the emphasis upon it by the doctors, undeformed. In its history, this bullet must, for the conclusions of the Report to be even tenable, have entered and exited the President; gone through the Governor's chest, smashing 10 cm. of his fifth rib in the process; fragmented his wrist, entered his thigh and, unassistedly -- and at precisely the right moment - worked its way out after imbedding a fragment in the thighbone; and to have also left a fragment in his chest, a fact suppressed from the Report (the staff avoided calling before the Commission the doctor in charge of the case, George T. Shires, who informed it of this fragment); and to have left more metal in the wrist alone than can be accounted as missing from the entire bullet. This bullet appears to be perfectly intact, without the marking of a single bone on it, whereas the testimony of Firearms Expert

Robert A. Frazier is that had it struck coarse cloth or leather it would have been marked.

All of the doctors, in varying phrasings, described this as impossible (WHITEWASH, "The Doctors and the Autopsy"), but it nonetheless is a central argument of the Report. Without it the government has no case at all. This will be dealt with in additional detail as we examine the suppressed evidence in succeeding chapters.

So, the fragments from the Governor's body - all of them, from all three parts - must have come from the hospital bullet. This spectrographic analysis can prove or disprove. The bullet and the fragments do exist.

There are also the scrapings from the windshield of the car. They must match the fragments belatedly found inside the car. Of these five fragments, the government was forced to concede it could not show they were from a single bullet. The existing evidence is that they could come from as many as <u>five</u> bullets. But for the case to hang together at all, all of these fragments, the scrapings from the windshield and the metal from the President's head, must have come from a single bullet. This, too, spectrographic analysis can prove or disprove. Again, all the fragments <u>do</u> exist (see Correspondence appendix).

The failure to question the spectrographer about his analysis and the deliberate exclusion of his study from the printed evidence is one of the most suspect of the unfortunately numerous suspicious shortcomings of the government's evidence, ~~and~~ procedures and practices that no court would have tolerated.

There are in excess of 3,200 exhibits by number alone in the record. Of these, many have numerous parts. Some run several hundred pages in length. They include bizarre and exotic items, like cheese-

cake pictures of Ruby's strippers. The enormous extent of the exhibits alone is millions of words, about 10,000 printed pages. In this vast outpouring of the government presses, in the millions of words of testimony in fifteen large volumes of hearings where, for example, dozens of pages were consumed in a futile effort to persuade a sick old lady to testify to things she did not know and specified she had neither been interested in nor observed, there is not a single word of the spectrographic analysis.

With all of the credible evidence proving this fundamental conclusion an impossibility, despite the contrary semantics of the Report, following my exposure of this strange lack in the evidence in WHITEWASH, I searched the files in the archives. Here, in hundreds of cubic feet of space, where evidence not published is also stored, there was also no trace of the spectrographic analysis. Inquiry of officials of the archive confirmed this. I was told it was in the possession of the FBI.

I thereupon wrote Director J. Edgar Hoover on May 23, 1966, calling to his attention certain defects I believe exist in the FBI reports and testimony. He has yet to deny my charge that the FBI improperly withheld evidence which involved neither good taste, the protection of his informants nor, in customary concepts, the national security. I told him that his firearms expert, Robert Frazier, and his spectrographer, John F. Gallagher, had not entered the spectrographic analysis into evidence, and that Frazier's testimony "is merely that the bullets were lead, which would seem to be considerably less information than spectrographic analysis could reveal." I reported the assurance of the National Archives that it was in the possession of the FBI and said, "I call upon you to make it immediately available."

He did not. He has yet to answer this letter. (This is not surprising, for Hoover will not even answer my written request for a

copy of a press release he issued because he wanted it printed. Not only would he not answer my letter or send the press release - forgetting he is not God and that I, among others, pay him to do just that - but when I first requested it by phone and one of his assistants promised it, it never arrived.) The reason was then obvious, and, in the light of this misrepresented and misunderstood action by the Department of Justice, is now more obvious. He dares not!

On the morning of November 3, I appeared at the National Archives and requested access to the spectrographic analysis of Dr. Robert H. Bahmer, the Archivist of the United States. We had a long and informative conversation about this archive, its contents and condition. Here I must record that I found the staff cooperative. Dr. Bahmer referred me to Marion Johnson, who is in immediate charge of this archive.

Johnson did not have the spectrographic analysis, hence he could not make it available. He phoned the FBI and asked for it. I stood by and waited while he was on the phone.

Cortlandt Cunningham, FBI firearms expert, insisted the spectrographic analysis is incorporated in a book-length report from Dallas Special Agent Robert F. Gemberling. Here there are essentially meaningless quotations, within quotation marks, and I showed Johnson, for his delicate diplomacy with the FBI, that this is <u>not</u> the Gallagher spectrographic analysis and, if that is what is quoted, the quotation marks alone certify its unoriginal nature.

To the FBI argument that this was all they had, I cited the May 13, 1964, testimony of their own expert, Frazier, before the Commission. Frazier assured the Commission, when it evaded its clear obligation then and there to enter the spectrographic analysis into its record, that this document would remain in the FBI files. The word "permanently" was used with unfortunate applicability. In arming Johnson for his

mission, I invoked the testimony on page 69 of Volume 5 where Frazier, when asked of Gallagher's report, "Are his report and your formal report a part of the permanent record of the FBI then?" responded, "Yes, sir."

The Commission appears to have accepted this as an unequivocal, official assurance. There is no question about the import of the question or the response. The spectrographic analysis, as though such assurance should be required when the assassination of a President is involved, exists.

What remains in doubt is whether the FBI is acting under higher orders, is blindly ignoring its legal obligations and continuing to suppress what it does not want available, or is hiding behind some special interpretation of the Acting Attorney General's directive (~~see~~ pp.--/-). That language also appears unequivocal. Its first sentence reads, "I have determined that the national interest requires the entire body of evidence considered by the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy and now in the possession of the United States be preserved intact."

The public assurances are that all of this evidence would be freely available to researchers. Were this other than the intent of the directive, what useful purpose other than propaganda was served by moving them across the street, from the Department of Justice on the west side of Seventh Street below Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, to the National Archives on the east side?

With or without the support of the Attorney General, this is not the first time that Hoover, its national upholder, has acted in other than the meaning of the law.

The continued suppression of the spectrographic analysis is consistent with the long and unsavory official record of suppressing

evidence that only tends to prove Oswald's innocence and the falsity of the official story.

The so-called "re-enactment" made at Aberdeen Proving Grounds was another fake and was so designed. It did not duplicate -- did not try to duplicate - the career imputed to this single, wonderful bullet of the seven not-fatal injuries, which also eluded self-injury in its fabled history. Close to exact duplication was possible. No shot was fired through the replica of both the President and the various parts of Governor Connally's body. Failure to do this, to duplicate what the Commission theorized happened suggests that it was known in advance that the duplicating tests would prove the opposite of the theory as, indeed, those less than replication actually do. The Commission merely misrepresented the results of the limited and invalid tests made for it.

In addition to what appears in WHITEWASH (especially "The Number of Shots"), a detailed study has been published by Ray Marcus of Los Angeles. It is entitled "The Bastard Bullet: A Search for Legitimacy". Marcus goes into extensive detail on what the pretended re-enactment actually shows. Also, there is hitherto secret data on this in coming chapters. Briefly, what the limited, really entirely inadequate and invalid Aberdeen mockups really prove is that it was impossible for these seven non-fatal injuries to have been inflicted without extensive deformity. Bullets fired through only part of the duplicated human tissue this one is supposed to have hit were distorted entirely out of shape. Had such a bullet inflicted the injuries on the President and then been so deformed, or had it inflicted the non-fatal injuries on the President and some of those on the Governor, where it next struck the Governor it would have maimed him horribly, for it would have been an oversized dumdum.

In the case of the fragments, the failure - then the refusal - of the government to make them with their spectrographic analysis public leads inevitably to the conclusion that the evidence does not support the Report, which without it rests entirely on supposition, a strange concept of evidence when the assassination of a President is the issue and when it is not necessary.

If the five fragments from the Presidential car cannot be proved to have come from the same bullet, to have caused the damage to the windshield, and to have also been parts of a single fatal bullet, the (24) government is without proof of its case. If the fragments recovered from the Governor cannot be proved to have come from the magical and seemingly intact, undeformed and unmutilated bullet, Exhibit 399, the government on this point alone has its case destroyed. With the Governor's injury, the allegations of the Report are contrary to 100 percent of the medical testimony.

If in either case, with the fatal bullet or the magical one, spectrographic analysis, extant but persistently suppressed by the government in violation of its own regulation, proves as it can that the suppositions that replace evidence in the Report are false, then we have the most monstrous frameup in our history and a prima facie case of a government conspiracy.

Originally, it might have been argued, no matter how foolishly, that only error was committed. However, once I demanded the evidence, and I did, frequently, over a span of sixteen months, both verbally and in writing, such a position could not be maintained. The absolute refusal of the FBI to make this essential evidence available, especially after being required to by the official directive of October 31, 1966, permits no other interpretation.

~~Should a document alleged to be this spectrograph analysis~~ now

Should a document alleged to be this spectrographic analysis now be presented, with this history, after my repeated and unanswered demands, it will have to be regarded with suspicion, for there is no extant public record of the contents or conclusions of the genuine spectrographic analysis. With the shameful record of the misrepresentation, destruction and mutilation of evidence by the government ~~that I have~~ already documented abundantly with its own evidence in my four earlier books, the precedent is already established.

More, unofficial private efforts to buttress the government's presumptions in substitution for proof also failed miserably and again proved the opposite. For its series of hour-long TV specials aired ~~hourly~~ in prime time on four successive nights beginning June 25, 1967, CBS obtained the services of Alfred G. Olivier, wounds-ballistics expert at Aberdeen and designer of those "tests" (5H74 ff.) Knowing full well that faithful re-enactment required simultaneous duplication of the seven non-fatal wounds allegedly inflicted by the one bullet, Olivier had not done this for the Commission. He didn't for CBS either. His CBS design called for masonite as a substitute for bone, gelatin for flesh. His creation denied Governor Connally even a masonite rib! Despite this disabling infidelity, all of his shots proved the opposite of the CBS "conclusions" - naturally, those of the Commission - for in not a single case did the bullet have the power to cause the seven injuries - even without the obstacle of a rib! What it really proved is that the single rifle bullet was not powerful enough to penetrate four human-body parts.

Like the Commission, the TV network found it expedient to release no detailed results, no impartial analysis. Like the Commission, CBS simply misrepresented the results of its "test".

And again like the Commission, CBS showed no pictures of its bullets which, inevitably, could not have been in the unmarred condition of Bullet 399. My request for this "evidence", these "results", is unanswered.

CBS did show a picture of Bullet 399. In so doing, it did not show where the metal known to have been deposited in three parts of Governor Connally's body could conceivably have come from with this bullet unscratched!

The reader is referred to the correspondence appendix for further information on the making accessible of the whole and other bullets. What actually caused what happened we perhaps will never know. I believe it is in response to my persistence - in correspondence, on the radio, and in speeches - that, when the continued suppression of the spectrographic analysis and other evidence caused no journalistic bolts of lightning to strike the responsible heads in the government, they were persuaded ~~them~~ to quietly make the bullet and related pieces and sample accessible. In addition to CBS, I know that Life took countless pictures that, 25 with the passage of months, it did not publish.

When shown to witnesses by the Commission, this bullet was carefully jailed in a plastic case and wadded with cotton, on the spurious claim that additional tests were to be made by the FBI. There were no tests that precluded the examination of all surfaces of this bullet by the experts called upon to render expert opinion.

Without this close examination, how valid an opinion could any expert give? How honestly could he swear to the result of an examination he was prevented from making? And how honest is the body and the intent of the body making demands of this sort of its experts?

The Commission did have qualified, expert testimony on what

happens to bullets when they strike various objects. For example, FBI Firearms Expert Robert A. Frazier testified that "even a piece of coarse cloth, leather" could have marked the surface with scratches (3H431). The doctors, in one way or another, testified they found the career attributed to this bullet inconceivable. Examination reveals it is virtually unblemished, allegedly after smashing the Governor's fifth rib and right wrist and imbedding a fragment in his left thigh bone.

Now, I am not a ballistics expert, nor am I a doctor, a pathologist, a prosecutor or a lawyer. But, aside from examining the official photograph of this bullet (WHITEWASH 208) and there seeing how close to perfect it is, I also held it in my hand and with some care examined all its surfaces. The marks of the rifling of the barrel are close to 100% perfect, entirely so to the unaided eye. There is no damage to them at all, no scratches across them or any visible deformity.

More difficult to understand is how this bullet could have become slightly flattened at the butt end without in any way leaving a mark on the perfect rifling! More magic! While merrily smashing bones all over the Governor, this bullet is supposed to have been entirely immune to what deforms other bullets, to have been impervious to deformity, mutilation, or even scratching!

Not only is this apparent to the naked eye, but it is confirmed by the microscopic examination Frazier made and testified to (3H430). Asked by Assistant Counsel Melvin Eisenberg, "Were the markings on the bullet at all defaced?" Frazier said, "Yes; they were, in that the bullet is distorted by having been slightly flattened or twisted".

"How material would you call that defacement?" Eisenberg asked.

"It is hardly visible unless you look at the base of the bullet and notice it is not round," Frazier told him, and "it had no effect at ~~all"~~ on

all" on his examination "for purposes of identification" because, even under microscopic examination, "it did not mutilate or distort" the markings to interfere with even microscopic examination!

How this could have happened normally - how a hardened bullet could be flattened at one end without serious marking - is a question not in this interrogation of the firearms expert, obvious as it would seem to be. There is no reason to believe this omission is because the answer would in any way have comforted the interrogator, in any way supported the impossible presumption of the Commission.

Nor is there, from this additional evidence, reason to presume that the forcible suppression of the spectrographic analysis is in any way because it in the slightest degree supports the official fictions. If it did, certainly its contents would have been plastered in the record of evidence, splashed across the front pages, dinned from the loudspeakers and flashed from the TV tubes.

This violation of the Attorney General's order, tolerated on all official levels, is consistent with the Commission's departure from the minimal requirements of evidence and honest procedures in suppressing the spectrographic analysis from its record and making it possible for Hoover to perpetuate the suppression.

It is anything but what the order of the Attorney General promised, that, because he had "determined that the national interest"[26] required it, "the entire body of evidence considered by the Commission" would be transferred to the National Archives.

No less disreputable is the government's behavior with other people's property. This it simply confiscated - selectively - seizing from those with no influence but not seizing the essential photographic property of powerful owners who thus made private profit from what should be national property. There was no need for this and no immediately-

apparent honorable construction that could be placed upon it. One once might have expected the press to rage at this violation of the sanctity of private property of small people. Its silence was and is monolithic.

Not a bit less dishonorable is the timing of the entire affair. The action of October 31 was taken but a single day before the expiration of the law (Public Law 89-318;79 Stat.1185) that enabled it, denying any possibility of any action, appeal or reconsideration.

With the alleged autopsy photographs and X-rays, returned in a blaze of cheap and spectacular publicity the next day, the continued suppression of their contents is made possible by governmental acceptance of illegal stipulations that could not be imposed otherwise ~~not possible~~. Had this government property not passed improperly into private hands, there could not have been placed upon them the restrictions the government equally improperly accepted as a condition of their return. Had the government, as it should have, maintained this essential evidence of the assassination in its possession, it could not have denied access to it. It now has the pseudo-legal excuse of the restrictions it "accepted" to continue to deny access to these pictures and X-rays to those who alone can make sense of them.

I tested this, through the channels outlined to me by the Archivist in our conference of November 3, 1966, as the correspondence appendix shows. I was twice refused access to what cannot legally be denied, once in writing, once in silence. I have exhausted my legal remedies and, when the legal assistance is available, will challenge this in court. At this writing, those organizations to which I have appealed for help will not involve themselves and I do not have the financial resources required for costly litigation.

The whole story of these pictures and X-rays, much of which ~~earlier~~ was included in Part 2 of WHITEWASH II, is perhaps an even greater scandal. Unless the government tells the whole truth about them, corrects the misrepresentations, distortions, misquotations and downright deceptions for which it has been responsible, produces an unbreakable chain of possession and evidence, eliminating any possibility of trickery and accidental or deliberate substitutions, I shall go farther than this book, which proves that the government cannot even establish, as the law and courts require:

That these are the same pictures and X-rays improperly given to the Kennedy family - no more of them and no fewer - and none not then given;

That thos given away are those taken during the body examination at Bethesda Naval Hospital, no more and no fewer - and no others;

And that every minute of possession of each and every one of the pictures and X-rays taken at Bethesda can be accounted for by credible sworn testimony and written receipts.

Without this, there is no way to know that - and with the shameful record of the government in this matter, to <u>believe</u> that - these are, indeed, the actual pictures and X-rays of the autopsy, no more, no fewer, and no other.

This hippodroming of the autopsy records of a murdered President cannot be divorced from the Barnum treatment accorded the other tangible evidence, for in its shameful flackery, treating the murder of a President and the evidence of that murder with the delicacy and subtlety of a sex scandal on a tabloid front page, the federal government studiously arranged for both to coincide.

Thus, we have the investigation of the assassination regarded ~~as~~ ~~and~~

and treated as though it were a deodorant or mouthwash, to be sold with loud, repugnant and inappropriate sales-pitches, an undignified degradation of the men, the office, the government and the country. Only the connivance of the press, which to a paper and a network accepted the palpably illegal as proper and the blatantly dishonest as pure, prevented an outcry of anguished national indignation.

Every dishonest act wreaks an additional and unnecessary tragedy, as though the murder in itself were not enough, or the phony investigation not already too much. With the so-called "gift" of the so-called pictures and X-rays of the autopsy carefully staged as a propaganda festival designed to credit the incredible, what for the first time here became public - and was fully exploited by the federal propagandists - is the association of the influential family name of the murdered President with the official "solution" to the crime and in a manner that was made to seem and in fact did seem as though the family did endorse the official explanation.

Until that point, the members of the Kennedy family and their spokesmen maintained a discreet silence, passing no judgment or opinion ~~on~~ on fact, saying merely that they had read nothing and intended to read nothing about it, and had no reason not to trust the official accounting. It is understandable that the members of the family would avoid additional pain, as they would trust their government. Indeed, how could the then-Attorney General dream that those under him were worthy of less than his undeviating, total trust? Or that they would so abuse his trust!

This first public Kennedy-family endorsement of the Report, played by the government for all its propaganda worth, is an unfortunate extra tragedy of those that seem to have no end.

What a scandalous official commemmoration of the third anniversary of the assassination of the President! What a shocking and disgraceful way to treat his assassination and his memory!

It was an odious event.